Attorney Docket No. 401073

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

MINAMIDE et al.

Art Unit: Unknown

Application No.: Unknown

Examiner: Unknown

Filed:

February 7, 2001

For:

**PROGRAMMABLE** CONTROLLER, AND CONTROL-PROGRAM-

DEVELOPMENT **SUPPORTING APPARATUS** 

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**Assistant Commissioner for Patents** Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

## IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 13 with:

Production equipment and production methods have rapidly changed in industrial fields, particularly in production fields, independent of the scale of a field, and the range of electrical-system controllers for equipment and systems for production has been increasing year after year. Therefore, it is important in communicating with a mechanical system, rationally to improve the cost performance, and realize a high-speed easy-tohandle user interface in this environment.

